

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1–122 (cancelled)

Claim 123 (new): A device for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
 a needle element having a curved portion; and
 a sling assembly for interlocking connection with an end of the needle element.

Claim 124 (new): The device of claim 123, wherein an end of the needle element attaches to
a handle.

Claim 125 (new): The device of claim 123, comprising a channel located at an end of the
needle element.

Claim 126 (new): The device of claim 125, wherein the channel is lockable for locking an
end of the sling assembly in the channel.

Claim 127 (new): The device of claim 126, wherein the channel is releasably lockable.

Claim 128 (new): The device of claim 125, comprising a spring loaded locking mechanism
for locking the sling assembly end in the channel.

Claim 129 (new): The device of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 130 (new): The device of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly comprises an
elongated extension located at an end of the sling assembly.

Claim 131 (new): The device of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly comprises an
aperture located at an end of the sling assembly.

Claim 132 (new): The device of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and a
pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 133 (new): The device of claim 132, wherein the pouch comprises an opening along
its length.

Claim 134 (new): The device of claim 132, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

Claim 135 (new): A device for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
a needle element having a curved portion and an interlocking mating structure on
a distal end of the needle; and

a sling assembly having a complementary interlocking mating structure.

Claim 136 (new): The device of claim 135, wherein the interlocking mating structure of the
needle element is inserted into the complementary interlocking mating structure of the sling
assembly.

Claim 137 (new): The device of claim 135, wherein the needle element is lockable to the
sling assembly.

Claim 138 (new): The device of claim 135, wherein the needle element is releasably
lockable to the sling assembly.

Claim 139 (new): The device of claim 135, wherein the sling assembly is indirectly
connected to the needle element.

Claim 140 (new): The device of claim 135, wherein the complementary interlocking mating
structure is indirectly connected to the sling assembly.

Claim 141 (new): The device of claim 135, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 142 (new): The device of claim 135, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and a
pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 143 (new): The device of claim 142, wherein the pouch comprises an opening along
its length.

Claim 144 (new): The device of claim 142, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

Claim 145 (new): A device for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
a needle element having a curved portion and a distal end; and
a sling assembly having an element for receiving the distal end of the needle
element.

Claim 146 (new): The device of claim 145, wherein the needle element is lockable to the
sling assembly.

Claim 147 (new): The device of claim 145, wherein the needle element is releasably lockable to the sling assembly.

Claim 148 (new): The device of claim 145, wherein the sling assembly is indirectly connected to the needle element.

Claim 149 (new): The device of claim 145, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 150 (new): The device of claim 145, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 151 (new): The device of claim 150, wherein the pouch comprises an opening along its length.

Claim 152 (new): The device of claim 150, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

Claim 153 (new): A device for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
a handle;
a needle, attached to the handle, having a channel located at an end, and having a curved portion; and
a sling assembly having an end for engaging the channel of the needle.

Claim 154 (new): The device of claim 153, wherein the channel is lockable for locking the sling assembly end in the channel.

Claim 155 (new): The device of claim 153, wherein the channel is releasably lockable.

Claim 156 (new): The device of claim 153, comprising a spring loaded locking mechanism for locking the sling assembly end in the channel.

Claim 157 (new): The device of claim 153, wherein the sling assembly comprises an elongated extension located at the sling assembly end.

Claim 158 (new): The device of claim 153, wherein the sling assembly comprises an aperture located at the sling assembly end.

Claim 159 (new): The device of claim 153, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 160 (new): The device of claim 153, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 161 (new): The device of claim 160, wherein the pouch comprises an opening along its length.

Claim 162 (new): The device of claim 160, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.